



# The TRUMPET

A publication from the Kansas Office of the State Fire Marshal | Winter 2017



## Meet Bingo!

### She sniffs out arson

Annual "Fires in Kansas" Report ♦ McGaughey Fire Service Award

Year in Review ♦ Fire Departments Receive Grants ♦ New Smoke Alarms

Fire Safety for Renters ♦ Poster Contest Winners

## FROM THE STATE FIRE MARSHAL

### Happy New Year!

As we have celebrated the beginning of 2017, we look forward to another productive year of supporting the Kansas Fire Service and others in protecting the citizens and guests of Kansas from the hazards of fire. Each New Year also rings in the beginning of a new legislative cycle. As always, I enjoy hearing ideas or suggestions from our Kansas Fire Service. If you have any ideas or proposals that could benefit our mutual efforts to create a safer Kansas, please contact me at [doug.jorgensen@ks.gov](mailto:doug.jorgensen@ks.gov).

In this issue you will see many of our agency's top accomplishments over the past year, including improving cost efficiencies and further development of programs to create a safer Kansas for all. We are also pleased to report a current trend in the reduction of structure fires in Kansas. According to our annual "Fires in Kansas" report, *there was almost an 11% decrease in structure fires during 2015 alone!*



Thank you for reading the Winter issue of *The Trumpet*. We hope you'll enjoy this issue and please share it with friends, family and co-workers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Doug Jorgensen". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Doug Jorgensen  
State Fire Marshal

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# HOT OSFM NEWS

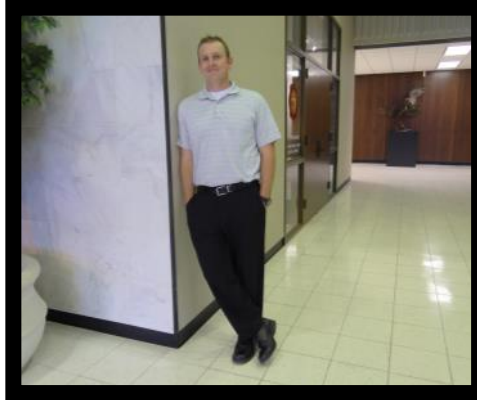
## Welcome Kevin Kerley, New Fire Prevention Inspector

Kevin Kerley has joined OSFM as a Fire Prevention Inspector, and will be working in facilities in Northeast Kansas. For the past three years, Kevin has been a full-time firefighter with the Mission Township Fire Department after starting there five years ago as a volunteer. During this time, he also spent two years working as an EMT with AMR Medical Transportation.

After graduating from Seaman High School north of Topeka, Kevin entered the construction industry where he worked in residential construction for several years. Just prior to shifting his career to the fire service, Kevin was working for Electricomm on the construction of electrical substations.

Kevin first considered entering the fire service after a friend of his fell off a roof at a construction site.

"No one was around to help and I didn't like that helpless feeling, so I took an EMT course and really liked it," Kevin says. "I really liked being prepared to help people."



## OSFM Welcomes Bingo, New Arson K9



The newest member of our investigative team has quite a nose for sniffing out accelerants and helping investigators determine the cause of fires.

Bingo is an ADC accelerant detection canine assigned to the Office of the State Fire Marshal. Bingo is a 17-month-old yellow female Labrador and Golden Retriever (cross). Bingo has been trained and certified as an accelerant detection canine by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives. Fire Investigator, Chris Mercer and Bingo are certified together as an accelerant detection team through the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Chris and Bingo are based in Marion, which is in Central Kansas. Chris has been an investigator with OSFM for three years.

Bingo and Chris have received over 240 hours of training and practical experience. Since graduation, Bingo has worked nine actual fire scenes. Bingo is certified by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives on a yearly basis and receives training on a daily basis.



## OUR MISSION

The agency's mission is to reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through inspection, enforcement, regulation, investigation, education, hazardous material and search & rescue incident responses.

## OUR PURPOSE

To reduce the deaths, injuries, and property losses of Kansans through:

- Inspection
- Enforcement
- Plans Review
- Fireworks and Explosives Regulation
- Investigation
- Hazardous material incident mitigation
- Public education
- Coordination of search and rescue efforts

## The TRUMPET

### EDITOR

Kevin Doel  
Public Information Manager  
kevin.doel@ks.gov  
785-296-3403

### CONTACT US

For information on receiving *The Trumpet* or if you have questions regarding content, please contact [Kevin Doel](mailto:kevin.doel@ks.gov).

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
800 SW Jackson, Suite 104  
Topeka, KS 66612-1216  
785-296-3401

## STAY CONNECTED





# Annual “Fires in Kansas” Report

**T**he Office of the State Fire Marshal has released its annual “Fires in Kansas” report based on reporting to the Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System by fire departments throughout the state. The statistics presented in this annual report were for calendar year 2015. The report highlights the significant role the Kansas fire service plays in protecting lives and property of the citizens of the state.

According to this report, incidents of almost every type of fire were reduced between 2014 and 2015, with the exception of vehicle fires. The most common type of fire was “Vegetation Fire,” and incidents of this type of fire reduced from 8,414 in 2014 to 7,188 in 2015. The second most common type of fire is “Structure Fire,” and there were 488 fewer structure fires in 2015 than in 2014 (3,660 in 2015 compared to 4,148 in 2014).

“Knowing the whens, whys, wheres and hows of fire in Kansas enables our brave firefighters to more intelligently attack the problems of fire in Kansas,” said Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal. “Our agency equips fire departments across the state with the information they need to be increasingly intelligent in how they protect the lives and property of Kansans.”

## Wildfires

During 2015, vegetation fires accounted for nearly 48% of all fires. Kansas vegetation fires are mostly small, with 80% of vegetation fires burning less than 10 acres. Fire departments reported a loss of 110,690 burned acres in 2015, a

significant drop from 2014 during which 189,514 acres was burned.

One in five vegetation fires are caused by a controlled burn (1,382 in 2015) and most of these occurred during Spring with 812 in March 2015 alone.

The overwhelming majority of wildfires in Kansas are caused by humans. Only 3% of vegetation-related fires are attributed to fully natural causes.

Prescribed burns, poorly maintained vehicles/equipment, and heat sources being used in a flammable place or in an unsafe manner are all common ways that wildfires get started.

## Structure Fires

Kansas is well on its way to reducing structure fires. There was almost an 11% decrease in structure fires during 2015 alone. Residential fires have accounted for 71-76% of structure fires during the past 15 years. In 2015, 72% of structure fires were residential fires.

The most common fire cause is cooking, with one in three home fires in Kansas being cooking-related. Cooking fires in 2015 caused a reported loss of \$1,656,086. Alcohol, drugs and sleepiness are causes for cooking fires year-round. Impairments and sleeping were involved in 28% of fatal cooking fires over the last 15 years.

Homes with children pose an increase in fire risk. Unsupervised children cooking in

the kitchen caused 98 fires in 2015. Since 2001, 1,639 cooking fires started with unattended children resulting in 93 injuries.



Equipment-caused fires were the second most common type of structure fire in 2015. Clothes dryers and water heaters are major culprits in starting this type of fire.

There are special areas of concern when it comes to fire safety in apartment buildings. Families in

apartment buildings live close together, affecting each other's risks associated with fire. Landlords and tenants alike have a role to play in maintaining a fire-safe place to live. In 2015, multi-family dwellings accounted for a total of 19.4% of residential structure fires in Kansas and they accounted for a statistically higher 32.6% of cooking fires. A full 55% of multi-family dwelling fires are cooking-related.

Balconies/porches are the top area of origin for smoking fires. Multi-family dwellings have a larger problem with 37% of smoking fires happening on a balcony or porch. Often, these fires are caused by smoking materials discarded into potted plants or mulch. Both are flammable and cause smoldering fires.

## The Fire Service and EMS

While the incidents of fire calls were reduced, the number of Emergency Medical Service (EMS) calls increased by 9,372 reported calls in 2015. Increasing EMS calls is a continued trend in the shifting workload of our Fire Service.

## 2016 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award Honoree



Each year, the Office of the State Fire Marshal joins with the Kansas State Association of Fire Chiefs and Kansas State Firefighters Association to honor a firefighter for heroic actions above and beyond the call of duty. This year, the agencies are delighted to bestow the 2016 Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award upon Firefighter Jesse Janzen of the Wichita Fire Department.

Firefighter Janzen was nominated for the award by Wichita Fire Chief Ronald Blackwell for Janzen's life-saving actions while operating at an apartment fire with a report of persons trapped. Firefighter Janzen heard screams from self-evacuated occupants who were indicating that an apartment on the first floor was still occupied. Janzen walked through a wall of flames, entered the apartment and was able to locate an elderly female, conscious, lying in her bed. Janzen led the woman to safety through an unburned portion of the building.

The Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award

recognizes exemplary accomplishments and acts of heroism by firefighters and other persons at fire-related incidents in Kansas. The individual is recognized for their acts above and beyond their basic duties and responsibilities, and for exemplifying the finest traditions of the fire service. The award is named in memory of Wichita Fire Chief Tom McGaughey who perished in a fire, along with three others (Chief Fire Inspector Merle O. Wells, Firefighter Jimmy L. Austin and Firefighter Dale J. Mishler) at the Yingling Auto Dealership on November 21, 1968.

"We are so thankful for the heroism of firefighters such as Jesse Janzen who put their lives on the line to save the lives and property of their fellow Kansans," said Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal. "We are happy to recognize Firefighter Janzen with the Tom McGaughey Fire Service Award and thank him for his dedicated service to the citizens of Wichita."

## New Video Busts Home Sprinkler Myths



Let's Talk Fire Safety: Home Fire Sprinkler Systems

OSFM Public Information Manager Kevin Doel joined with Education Consultant Kelly Ingold to bust some common myths about residential sprinklers, and why sprinkler systems are a good investment in not only commercial buildings, but private homes as well.

**Click the image above to view the video.**

## BY THE NUMBERS

Incidents of vegetation fires reduced from **8,414** in 2014 to **7,188** in 2015.

Kansas vegetation fires are mostly small, with **80%** of vegetation fires burning less than 10 acres.

Fire departments reported a loss of **110,690** burned acres in 2015, a significant drop from 2014 during which **189,514** acres was burned.

Impairments and sleeping were involved in **28%** of fatal cooking fires over the last 15 years.

Source: Kansas Fire Incident Reporting System



# 2016

## A year of big progress

### Get Alarmed, Kansas program

We recently decided to improve our free statewide smoke alarm installation program. We are excited to change from providing a 10-year sealed lithium battery smoke alarm to now providing a 10-year sealed lithium battery combination smoke/carbon monoxide alarm. In addition, we are now providing two different kinds of smoke alarms for the deaf and hard-of-hearing (DHH) as well. All of the free smoke alarms from our “Get Alarmed, Kansas” program are available for the local fire departments, The Red Cross, and Fraternal Organizations in Kansas to install in residential homes.



### Partnerships in Community Risk Reduction with American Red Cross and Safe Kids Kansas



We are pleased to be partnering with the American Red Cross and Safe Kids Kansas to work together to educate Kansans regarding fire safety. American Red Cross and the OSFM are collaborating to install more working smoke alarms in the homes of Kansans.

We also worked with Safe Kids Kansas to encourage families to create escape plans using our free magnetic fire escape plan that we distributed in conjunction with the first Home Fire Drill Day at the end of Fire Prevention Week. **Safe Kids Kansas even recognized our agency with an award for Outstanding Coalition Member for 2016.**

### Development of a Disaster Recovery Site

The agency has made an important investment in time and hardware for a Disaster Recovery (DR) site. The DR site is a facility this organization can use to recover and restore its technology infrastructure to resume operations when the primary data center becomes unavailable. The DR site will also store critical and efficient backups of all agency infrastructure and applications. When the DR site is fully functional, should the downtown office location become unavailable due to natural or man-made disasters, designated OSFM employees will be able relocate to the facility and resume daily critical operations. The development of the DR site is the final step of completing our state-required Continuity of Operations Plan.



### Elimination of fees for certification and licensure for propane, fire extinguisher and fireworks industries

With the approval of the Kansas Legislature and Governor Brownback, our agency has been able to eliminate certification and licensure fees for the propane, fire extinguisher and fireworks industries in Kansas. Our aim with eliminating these fees is to help Kansas-based industries become more profitable and thrive, enabling them to better contribute to our state's economy. The estimated savings for these industries are \$25,000 for the fire extinguisher industry, \$35,000 for the fireworks industry, and \$140,000 for the propane industry.



### Significant progress in development and implementation of Kansas Search & Rescue strategic plan

Under the direction of the agency's Chief of Emergency Response Division and State Search & Rescue Coordinator, great progress has been made in the development of a five year strategic plan for the Kansas Search and Rescue program. Another big accomplishment has been the formalized organization of a task force or team in each of the seven homeland security regions of the state, which includes three Type 3 task



forces, a Type 4 task force and three structural collapse rescue teams. We



currently have seven deployable K9s and one deployable Structures Specialist (StS).

#### Boiler Unit:

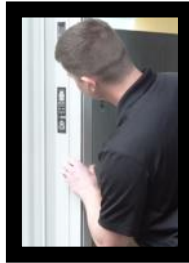
Since OSFM received the boiler inspection responsibility for the state, the Agency has collected over \$200,000 in past debt that it had been owed for inspections and certifications since 2007. We have implemented a payment process that assures we receive a payment for services or they do not receive certification to operate. We also follow up on violations that are noted doing the inspection to make sure the facilities are actually correcting the violations to assure the safety of any occupant in their building. Along with collecting debt owed to the State of Kansas, we have streamlined the scheduling of inspections for our staff, as well as 14 Insurance companies that operate in the state to ensure the inspections are being done on an annual base. To assist facilities with information, we have added a FAQ section to our web site as well as adding a payment portal for credit card payments to streamline our collection process.



#### Fire Prevention Division:

This Division has built working partnerships with many of the State Agencies which require our approval for their licensing process. Some of those Agencies will include KDHE Child Care Licensing, KDHE Tank Management,

KDHE Health Facilities, KDADS Aging, HCBS, Certification and Credentialing, Centers for Medicaid and Medicare Service and Department of Administration Facilities Management, and the Board of Regents. Working with these Agencies to assure we have



approved the building for occupancy and Life Safety is critical. We also must make sure paperwork has been submitted timely to assure there are no delays for the business owners. Our Agency

also Licenses any business selling Propane in the State of Kansas and services Fire Safety Equipment. In 2016, we no longer charge fees to these facilities saving the business owners over \$175,000 dollars.

#### Drone program:

The Investigation Division has invested in three quadcopter Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs) to help fire departments across the state with both fire suppression efforts and fire investigations. These drones are located across the state to assist in its own fire investigation and emergency response efforts as well as to support other public agencies when needed. These drones are able to fly over the scene of a fire to help investigators determine the cause and origin of a blaze. They can also be used during an active fire to aid local fire departments with fire suppression efforts by getting a bird-eye view of a blaze in real-time and knowing better where to channel resources.



#### Involvement in PRND nuclear program:

State of Kansas is partnering with the DHS Domestic Nuclear Detection Office (DNDO) to develop a systematic and coordinated plan for detecting,



interdicting, and assessing radiological and nuclear encounters within the state and responding to a possible radiological/

nuclear threat or incident. OSFM participated in PRND operations at the Balloon Fiesta in Albuquerque, NM in October 2016 to gain experience in how the program will benefit the State of Kansas during large-scale public events.

#### Involvement in DHS "Project Jackrabbit":

The OSFM's Emergency Response Division has been participating in "Project Jackrabbit," a series of highly instrumented, large-scale, chemical release field trials by the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to improve the modeling of toxic inhalation hazard chemicals (TIHs) released from accidents or terrorist attacks on chemical storage tanks or railcars. The OSFM has helped procure off-the-shelf



instrumentation typically utilized by emergency responders to be part of the field trials. OSFM provided instrumentation, as well as on-site support for calibration and data collection during the field trials. The OSFM involvement was by invitation only, and is privileged to have contributed to a national DHS project.

# First-ever grant recipients of Kansas Firefighter Recruitment & Safety Grant Program



The Office of the State Fire Marshal is pleased to announce the first-ever recipients of grant funds through the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant program. This program, made possible with the 2016 State of Kansas budget passed by the state Legislature and signed by Governor Sam Brownback, is aimed at assisting volunteer and part-time fire departments across the state with firefighter recruitment.

Grants issued through the Kansas Firefighter Recruitment and Safety Grant (KFRSG) program will cover the costs of safety gear for new firefighters, plus funds for the purchase of new washer-extractor machines used to clean bunker gear following a fire. Funds were also made available through this grant program for the creation of Junior Firefighter programs to attract youth volunteers into the fire service.

"We are very thankful for all of the fire departments who applied for funding through this new grant program," said Doug Jorgensen, State Fire Marshal.

"Many communities in our state depend on those voluntarily putting their lives on the line to protect their neighbors' lives and property, and this program aims to make sure these firefighters' health and safety are a top priority."

The OSFM was given approval to spend up to \$200,000 through this program, and 41 fire departments submitted applications totaling \$814,336.

## Fire departments receiving funds for safety gear include:

City of Russell Fire Department - \$6,080  
City of Tonganoxie FD - \$4,914  
Cowley County Fire District #4 - \$4,404  
Geary County Rural Fire District - \$7,623  
(includes funding for a Junior Firefighter program)  
Hackberry Township FD - \$12,110  
Herington Fire Department - \$7,464  
Humboldt Fire Department - \$10,998  
Larned Fire Department - \$8,092  
Netawaka Rural Fire District #6 - \$6,608  
(includes funding for a Junior Firefighter program)  
Olmitz Volunteer FD - \$5,992  
Soldier Township FD - \$9,099  
Solomon FD - \$11,454  
South Hutchinson Volunteer FD - \$3,358  
Stevens County FD - \$15,576  
Victoria Volunteer FD - \$11,120  
Wakefield City FD - \$5,842  
Wakefield Rural Fire District #1 - \$10,614  
Waterville FD - \$5,814  
Wilson FD - \$3,430

## Fire departments receiving funding for a new washer/extractor machine include:

Ellinwood Fire Department  
Florence Fire Department  
Herington Fire Department  
Waterville Fire Department  
Wellington Fire Department

The OSFM requested bid proposals from vendors of washer/extractor machines and will use funds from the grant program to cover the costs of the machines, installation and detergent.

Volunteer and part-time fire departments face recruitment and retention challenges because they do not

have the funding to provide safety equipment. Without new equipment provided by the recruiting fire department, potential volunteers are faced with not only donating their time but also providing their own safety gear, sharing gear with others, or doing without.

Safety gear which can be purchased through this grant program based on a proven and demonstrated need includes bunker gear, fire helmets, fire boots, and new masks for Self-Contained Breathing Apparatus (SCBA) units for both current and new department members.

It is vital to the health of firefighters to properly clean bunker gear following a fire to prevent the transfer of carcinogens, particulates and biohazards to firefighters, and those they serve. Further, as more and more particles attach to protective gear and chemicals remain on clothing, that gear gradually loses its effectiveness—putting firefighters at increased risk.

As the goal for the KFRSG grant program is firefighter recruitment, providing funding for the start of Explorer programs offers a great way for local fire departments to give the youth of their area an opportunity to explore both career and voluntary opportunities in the fire service. Volunteer and part-time fire departments will be able to apply for funding to cover the initiation fees for the Explorer program or the National Volunteer Fire Council National Junior Firefighter Program, plus a \$100 start-up fund.





# New Smoke Alarms Available

By Kelly Ingold, Education Consultant



In 2014, the Office of the State Fire Marshal (OSFM) implemented a free statewide residential smoke alarm installation program as a fire prevention effort. We have decided to change from our 10-year sealed lithium battery smoke alarm to a 10-year sealed lithium battery smoke/carbon monoxide (CO) dual alarm. We are also adding two different kinds of smoke alarms for deaf/hard of hearing (DHH) as well. The DHH alarms will have a separate order form and need a physician's signature. Both smoke alarm order forms are available on our website.

According to FEMA, more than 150 people in the U.S. die every year from accidental nonfire related carbon monoxide poisoning. CO is a colorless and odorless gas. CO poisoning can occur when a fuel-burning appliance or machine (furnace, heater, generator, range, cooktop, grill, etc.) is not working or vented properly. Breathing in CO at high levels can be fatal. As with smoke alarms, make sure to install CO alarms in every bedroom and sleeping area in your home and keep them at least 15 feet away from fuel-burning appliances. If your house has more than one level, make sure there's an alarm on each one, even those without bedrooms. And remember to test your alarms monthly. Only working alarms can save

lives. Carbon monoxide gas is invisible and odorless; you need alarms to detect it because human senses simply cannot.

People who are deaf or hard-of-hearing cannot depend on the sound of the regular alarm to alert them to a fire. That is why it is imperative they have a DHH smoke alarm installed.

## GET ALARMED KANSAS

There are two different kinds of DHH smoke alarms that we will have available. The first kind of DHH smoke alarm is a bedside fire alarm and clock by Lifetone. This bedside alarm and clock combines the technologies scientifically proven to be most effective for waking people in an emergency: loud 520 Hz alarm sound, baritone voice announcing "Fire! Get out!", powerful pulsed bed shaker vibration (activated by the sound of the alarm), and the bright orange screen flashing "FIRE" tells you what the emergency is. The second kind of DHH smoke alarm is by Gentex and is a plug-in style with a strobe alarm. It is designed to alarm a room with a piercing loud alarm and bright strobe. This portable smoke alarm is AC-

powered, so you don't need an electrician to install it. These alarms respond to the sound of the home's traditional smoke alarm. Because these DHH alarms are portable, they can travel with you on vacation or visits to the homes of family and friends. To survive a house fire, you need to be able to exit the house within three minutes or less. If you are hard-of-hearing, it's important for you to install equipment that can help you and your family make a safe and hasty escape.

Remember to test your smoke alarms every month, replace the batteries at least once a year (unless you have a sealed 10-year lithium battery), and develop and practice your fire escape plan with all members of your family at different times of the day. You should find two ways out of every room and choose a specific meeting place. Be sure to check your smoke alarm's manufacture date on the back of the alarm and replace it if it's 10 years or older.

Fire departments and communities that want to partner with OSFM to help reduce fire deaths and injuries by installing smoke alarms and educating families on fire safety can visit <https://firemarshal.ks.gov/smokealarm> or email [kelly.ingold@ks.gov](mailto:kelly.ingold@ks.gov) with any questions.



The high cost of home heating fuels and utilities have caused many Americans to search for alternate sources of home heating. The use of wood burning stoves is growing and space heaters are selling rapidly, or coming out of storage. Fireplaces are burning wood and manmade logs. All these methods of heating may be acceptable. They are, however, a major contributing factor in residential fires. Many of these fires can be prevented. The following fire safety tips can help you maintain a fire safe home this winter.

- Be sure that kerosene heaters are legal in your area.
- Be sure your heater is in good working condition. Inspect exhaust parts for carbon buildup. Be sure the heater has an emergency shut off in case the heater is tipped over.
- Never use fuel burning appliances without proper room venting. Burning fuel (coal, kerosene, or propane, for example) can produce deadly fumes.
- Use **ONLY** the fuel recommended by the heater manufacturer. **NEVER** introduce a fuel into a unit not designed for that type fuel.
- Keep kerosene, or other flammable liquids stored in approved metal containers, in well ventilated storage areas, outside of the house.
- **NEVER** fill the heater while it is operating or hot. When refueling an oil or kerosene unit, avoid overfilling.

- Refueling should be done outside of the home (or outdoors). Keep young children away from space heaters—especially when they are wearing night gowns or other loose clothing that can be easily ignited.
- When using a fuel burning appliance in the bedroom, be sure there is proper ventilation to prevent a buildup of carbon monoxide.

Wood stoves and fireplaces are becoming a very common heat source in homes. Careful attention to safety can minimize their fire hazard.

#### **To use them safely:**

- “ Be sure the fireplace or stove is installed properly. Wood stoves should have adequate clearance (36”) from combustible surfaces and proper floor support and protection.
- “ Wood stoves should be of good quality, solid construction and design, and should be laboratory tested.
- “ Have the chimney inspected annually and cleaned if necessary, especially if it has not been used for some time.
- “ Do not use flammable liquids to start or accelerate any fire.
- “ Keep a glass or metal screen in front of the fireplace opening, to prevent embers or sparks from jumping out, unwanted material from going in, and help prevent the possibility of burns to occupants.
- “ The stove should be burned hot twice a day for 15-30 minutes to reduce the amount of creosote buildup.

“ Don’t use excessive amounts of paper to build roaring fires in fireplaces. It is possible to ignite creosote in the chimney by overbuilding the fire.

“ Never burn charcoal indoors. Burning charcoal can give off lethal amounts of carbon monoxide.

“ Keep flammable materials away from your fireplace mantel. A spark from the fireplace could easily ignite these materials.

“ Before you go to sleep, be sure your fireplace fire is out. **NEVER close your damper with hot ashes in the fireplace.** A closed damper will help the fire to heat up again and will force toxic carbon monoxide into the house. If synthetic logs are used, follow the directions on the package. **NEVER** break a synthetic log apart to quicken the fire or use more than one log at a time. They often burn unevenly, releasing higher levels of carbon monoxide.

It is important that you have your furnace inspected to ensure that it is in good working condition. Be sure all furnace controls and emergency shutoffs are in proper working condition.

Leave furnace repairs to qualified specialists. Do not attempt repairs yourself unless you are qualified. Inspect the walls and ceiling near the furnace and along the chimney line. If the wall is hot or discolored, additional pipe insulation or clearance may be required.



# Portable Heater Safety

According to NFPA, space heaters accounted for one-third (30%) of the home heating fires and three-fourths (73%) of home heating fire deaths in 2006. Space heaters (portable and stationary) were involved in an estimated 64,100 U.S. home structure fires, 540 civilian deaths, 1,400 civilian injuries, and \$9.4 million in direct property damage.

Much of the injury and damage was caused by the heating elements used in some types of electric heaters, which are hot enough to ignite nearby combustibles such as draperies, paper, clothing, furniture, and flammable liquids.

## Portable Heater Safety Tips

- Look for a heater that is listed with a nationally-recognized testing laboratory. These heaters are tested to meet specific safety standards, and manufacturers are required to provide important use and care information to the consumer.
- Before using the heater, read and follow the instructions for its operation and maintenance.
- Never run the heater's cord (or any cord) under rugs, carpeting or furniture.
- Plug portable heaters directly into a wall outlet. Do not plug a space heater into a surge protector, multi-outlet box or extension cord. The high current flow can cause components to deteriorate.

- Do not leave the heater operating unattended or operating while sleeping.
- To prevent electrical shocks and electrocutions, always keep portable electric heaters away from water. And never touch an electric heater if you are wet.
- Do not use an electric heater as a dryer by placing clothing over it.
- Keep the heater in a safe working condition in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Replace missing guards, controls or frayed wiring at once. Never operate a defective heater.
- Do not place the heater where children might play near it or where people might trip over or bump into it.
- Place the heater on a level surface for stability.

The Life Safety Code, NFPA 101, section 19.7.8 prohibits the use of portable space heaters in health care occupancies but provides the following exception: Portable space heating devices shall be permitted to be used in non-sleeping staff and employee areas where the heating elements of such devices do not exceed 212 degrees F. This requirement applies to all hospitals and medical office buildings.

Following these safety tips will help keep you warm, but not too warm!

# Community Readiness

## Emergency Preparation Planning

*The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) have released new Emergency Preparedness Conditions of Participation (CoP) for 17 different health and medical provider types.*

## Resources for Emergency Planners

One of the key items of the CoP for all provider types is the development of an emergency plan. These plans should address the full spectrum of emergencies and disasters that could impact the organization or facility. These hazards should be identified by the use of a hazard vulnerability assessment or other similar tool.

This emergency plan should be coordinated with community emergency response and emergency management organizations including local fire and county emergency management. These plans, both the hazard assessment and the emergency plan, will need to be updated a minimum of annually.

## Emergency Planning Resources

KDHE Preparedness has template emergency plans available for hospitals, dialysis centers, community mental health centers and safety net clinics available at: [http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/operating\\_guides.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/operating_guides.htm).

## Hazard Vulnerability Assessment Resources

An important part of developing an emergency plan is conducting a hazard vulnerability assessment to identify your organizational or facility risks. KDHE has developed a tool and user's guide to assist health and medical organizations with documenting their identified risks. The tool and user's guide is available at: [http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/operating\\_guides.htm](http://www.kdheks.gov/cphp/operating_guides.htm).





On Friday, December 2, a fire engulfed a warehouse in Oakland, California – resulting in the deaths of at least 36 people attending a party. This facility was not only being used as a warehouse but, according to media reports, provided housing even though it was not licensed to do so. This tragic fire, along with a spate of apartment building and rental home fires right here in Kansas, should cause building owners to consider whether or not they are providing the safest possible facilities for their residents.

Multi-family dwellings account for a total of 19.4% of residential structure fires in Kansas. Through inspection and enforcement, the Office of the State Fire Marshal works with building owners and landlords to ensure compliance with building codes aimed at protecting the lives and property of residents. State Fire Marshal Doug Jorgensen wants to provide information that both landlords and residents need to know to ensure safe places for living and congregating.

“There are special areas of concern when it comes to fire safety in apartment buildings,” says Jorgensen. “Families in apartment buildings live close together, affecting each other’s risks associated with fire. Landlords and tenants alike have a role to play in maintaining a fire-safe place to live.”

#### **Landlord and occupant responsibility and safety measures**

Landlords are required to install a working smoke alarm in each of their rental units and repair or replace them when they are

deficient. Tenants have the responsibility to ensure that the smoke alarms in their homes are present, clean and operational, and may be responsible for changing batteries in smoke alarms, if applicable. Each rental unit should also be equipped with a fire extinguisher or automatic sprinkler system or both. Tenants should make sure they are aware of the protection available and understand its use and maintenance.

Landlords may face further responsibilities based on local jurisdiction and the rental agreement. It is imperative that both owners and tenants understand the roles and responsibilities for testing and maintaining smoke alarms to avoid failures. To be absolutely sure and safe, residents should assume a degree of personal responsibility toward working smoke alarms, regardless of what the agreement or law may state.

Almost 40% of fires in multi-family dwellings occurred above the ground floor. It is imperative residents, especially families with children, establish and practice an escape plan with multiple exits.

Building owners need to comply with the Kansas Fire Prevention Code, which covers safety systems -- sprinkler systems, fire alarms, emergency lighting, exit lights, and exiting of the building. They should check with their local building code officials. Many local jurisdictions have more stringent codes than the state’s requirements.

#### **What causes apartment fires?**

**Cooking** - Apartment homes count for a statistically higher percentage of cooking fires than occur in other residential types. One in two apartment fires are caused by cooking, while in other types of residences cooking accounts for one in four fires. Cooking fires in apartment buildings caused a reported loss of \$1,656,086 in 2015.

**Smoking** - No matter the type of residence, balconies/porches are the top area of origin for smoking fires. Multi-family dwellings have a larger problem with 37% of smoking fires happening on the balcony/porch. Smoking-related fires on balconies/porches at houses account for just 14% of all smoking fires. Often, this is caused by smoking materials discarded into potted plants or mulch. Both are flammable and cause smoldering fires. Guests of non-smoking renters may dispose of cigarette butts in such material when an ash tray is not made available.

**Utilities** – Fifty percent of Kansas water heater fires in residences occurred in multi-family dwellings. Often there is a delayed detection of this type of fire, with water heaters in dedicated utility rooms without smoke alarms. Regular maintenance, inspection, and heat/smoke alarms could reduce the number of fires.

For more information on fire safety for apartments and other residential rental properties, visit [FireMarshal.ks.gov/renters](http://FireMarshal.ks.gov/renters).

# Burn Prevention

National Burn Awareness Week  
**February 5-11, 2017**



Fire is just one cause of burn injuries to children. Scalding hot water, hot foods and beverages, heating appliances, hot pots and pans, fireworks, electrical currents and chemicals can all be the cause of serious burns to children.

Of the total child burn injuries reported to the Kansas Burn Injury Reporting System since 2010, 17% have been caused by touching hot metal objects such as furnace registers and grills. The rest of the top 5 causes of child burns are hot liquids (16%), fireworks (14%), fires (13%) and stove/oven (10%).

While fewer children are injured in bathtubs from hot water, those injuries pose the highest danger, with higher than normal percentages of burned skin and more days in the hospital than any other cause.

Safe Kids Kansas and the Office of the State Fire Marshal recommend the following 4 tips to prevent scalds.

**Adjust your water heater.** With everything going on, we know the water heater is the last thing on your mind. But a small adjustment can give you one less thing to worry about. To prevent accidental scalding, set your water heater to 120 degrees Fahrenheit or the manufacturer's recommended setting.



**Don't carry or hold a child while cooking.** Instead, move a high chair in the kitchen within reach or sight before you start. Then talk to your children so they know what's going on. It's a great way to spend time together. Establish a 3' safety

zone around the stove while cooking.

**Use the back burners.** Kids love to reach, so to prevent hot food or liquid spills in the kitchen, simply use

the back burner of your stove and turn pot handles away from the stove edge. Keep hot foods away from the edge of your counters.

**Place matches, gasoline and lighters in a safe place, out of children's reach.** Avoid novelty lighters or lighters that look like toys.

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If a child is burned, the burned area should be placed in, or flushed with, cool water. Keep the burned area in the cool water for 10 to 15 minutes. Never use ice, ointments or butter. If the burn is severe, immediately seek emergency assistance.

## Burn Rx

**Immediately cool the burn with water.** Pour cool water on burns or soak them for at least three to five minutes (30-40 minutes for chemical injury). Don't use ice as it may stick to the burn and remove skin.

**Cover the burn.** Apply a soft, clean, dry dressing, bandage or sheet to the burned area. Don't break blisters as this could lead to infection.

**Seek medical help as necessary.** For adults, if the burn is larger than the size of a quarter, see a doctor.

**Never use ointment or butter.** Use only cool water on burns. Ointment, butter, cream and salve cause the burn to retain heat, which may cause infection and may hinder medical evaluation.





# Congrats to winners of the Fire Safety Poster Contest

Each year, our office conducts a statewide Fire Safety Poster Contest with the theme "Show What You Know About Fire Safety." This contest provides schools and local fire departments the opportunity to work together to teach school children about fire safety.

We are pleased to present this year's poster contest winners!



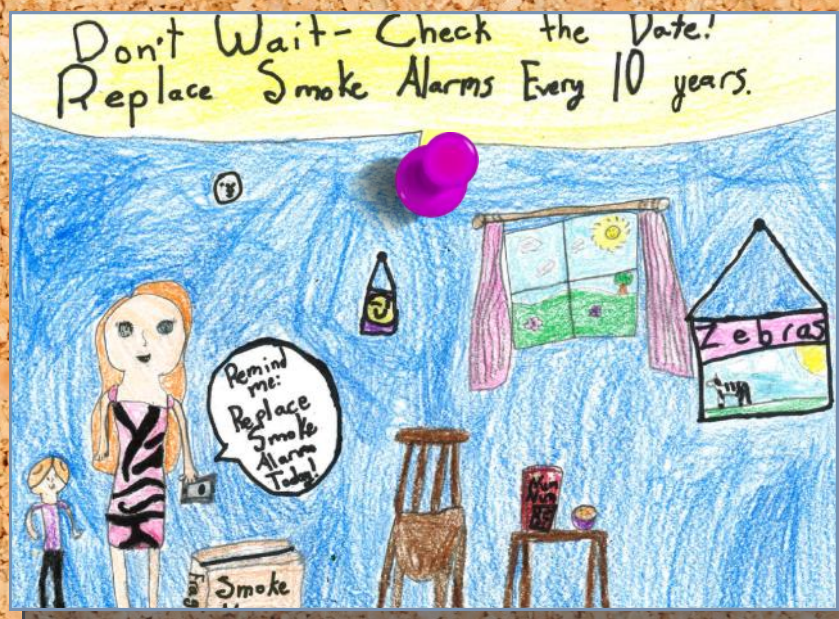
Crestan Schwein, 2<sup>nd</sup> Grade, Colwich Elementary, Colwich, Kansas

WINNER, K-2<sup>nd</sup> Grade Category



Landon Williams, 4<sup>th</sup> Grade, West Franklin Elementary  
Pomona, Kansas

WINNER, 3<sup>rd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> Grade Category



Reese Brittain, 5<sup>th</sup> Grade, Wolf Creek Elementary, Spring Hill, Kansas

WINNER, 5<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> Grade Category